

High Desert Special Recreation Management Area Horse Ridge Recreation Area

Not all trails are depicted on this map. BLM intends to re-route some trails where there are conflicts with wildlife, plants, and other resources.

You Are Here

High Desert Special Recreation Management Area Horse Ridge Recreation Area

A Place Apart

Managed by the Prineville District of the Bureau of Land Management, this 40-square-mile region of lava and juniper, located 20 miles SE of Bend, is bounded by the Deschutes National Forest on the south, the Oregon Badlands Wilderness to the north, Dry River Canyon to the northeast and rural residential communities to the northwest.

Natural History

The area includes two distinct landforms: Horse Ridge, a series of prominent fault-bounded ridges roughly parallel to state Highway 20, and the Skeleton Fire area, a generally flat yet rocky open area located to the northwest. Horse Ridge rises to an elevation of approximately 5,100 feet and includes an un-grazed, 600-acre Research Natural Area established in 1967 to study western juniper-big sagebrush plant communities. The adjacent Skeleton Fire area has mature juniper trees, a result of the 1996 fire which burned 17,000 acres and damaged or destroyed 30 homes. Today, the effects of this fire are visible in the diverse shrubs and native grasses that reside in this flat, basaltic expanse.

The old growth juniper woodland and open shrub-steppe habitats in this area provide important habitat for wildlife, such as elk, mule deer, pronghorn, golden eagles, red-tailed hawks, bluebirds, flickers and greater sage grouse. Some of the oldest known western juniper trees are found on the slopes of Horse Ridge.

Know Before You Go

Motor vehicles are only permitted on signed, designated roads. Equestrians, bicyclists and

hikers may use designated roads, as well as existing routes, or travel cross country. Late Fall through early Spring is the most popular time period for recreation in the area as soil conditions provide firm footing and less resource damage. Motorized riding opportunities are available nearby in the Millican Valley and East Fort Rock trail systems. The long-term goals for the Horse Ridge Recreation Area include providing a trail system with emphasis on a variety of non-motorized trail uses while improving habitat conditions and relocating routes outside of the Research Natural Area.

Please help protect Horse Ridge and other visitors by following these rules and regulations:

- Cross country travel by motor vehicles is illegal; they are limited to the designated road system.
- On the trail, hikers yield to equestrians; mountain bikers yield to all other users.
- Horse Ridge proper is closed to firearm discharge unless legally hunting (see map for target shooting closure area).
- Leave gates as you find them: either open or closed.
- Respect private property by staying on public lands.



Legend

- Trailhead
- Scenic Vista
- Information Kiosk
- OHV Staging Area
- Designated Motorized Road
- Road
- Horse Ridge Recreation Area Non-Motorized Route
- Other Non-Motorized Trail
- OHV Trail
- Fences
- Closed to All Firearm Discharge
- Closed to Firearm Discharge Unless Legally Hunting
- Horse Ridge Recreation Area
- Oregon Badlands Wilderness

Administered Lands

- Bureau of Land Management
- Deschutes National Forest
- State
- Private

5000 meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks. Zone 10 N, NAD 83 (shown in black)
Decimal Degree grid ticks, NAD 83 (shown in red)

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management**

PRINEVILLE DISTRICT

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0 0.5 1 2

Miles

0 0.5 1 2 3

Kilometers

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